

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANGELICA JACOBO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Jacobo who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Jacobo is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Jacobo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Angelica Jacobo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA NINO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patricia Nino, a member of my staff. Next Friday, May 29th is Patricia's last day as the Staff Assistant in our office. Patricia has been serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois since 1997.

Patricia was born in Chicago, Illinois, and has raised her family here. Her working experience spans from the Chicago Board of Education, City of Chicago-Purchasing Department and working at the Chicago Park District until her retirement. She has been working in the Fifth Congressional District Office having joined my predecessor Rahm Emanuel's staff in 2003.

Patricia has been a cornerstone for the Fifth Congressional District office for over a decade, and her cheerful disposition and dedication to service will be sorely missed. Patricia has always shown determination and heart in everything she's done, including raising two sons, caring for her ill husband, and volunteering in the community.

Patricia's family has always been a priority in her life. Her two children, John and Frank, are the proud parents of her grandchildren, Collette, Dionna, Brittany and Lexie. Patricia is awaiting the birth of her first great-grandchild in August.

I wish Patricia all the happiness in the future and thank her for her service to the people of Illinois' Fifth Congressional District.

HONORING EVERETT JOHNSON,
M.D.**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Everett Johnson upon being honored with the 2009 John Darroch Memorial Award/Outstanding Physician Award, for his service to the Turlock community for over 50 years. Dr. Johnson will be honored at the Stanislaus Medical Society, Annual Membership meeting, on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, California.

Everett Johnson was born and raised in Turlock. He graduated from Turlock High School, and began his medical career as a medical corpsman. He attended medical school from 1944 to 1949 while serving in the United States Naval Reserve. Dr. Johnson continued to serve our nation by completing an internship and two years of service in the United States Air Force. Dr. Johnson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He earned a second Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he also attended medical school and earned his M.D. In 1949, he interned at the University of Oregon's Hospitals and Clinics in and around the Portland, Oregon area. Dr. Johnson returned to Wisconsin to complete his residency program where he focused on Internal Medicine.

In 1954, with military service and medical school under his belt, Dr. Johnson returned to Turlock and opened a private practice of internal medicine. After six years, Dr. Johnson entered into a partnership. The partnership lasted until 1970, when he decided to turn to education and become an Associate Professor at Stanford University. Dr. Johnson returned to private practice in 1973 and maintained his practice through 2006. While maintaining his own practice, he also worked for Stanislaus County Hospital, Emanuel Medical Center and Memorial Hospital of Stanislaus County.

Throughout his career, Dr. Johnson has been involved with both the medical community and the greater community. He is an Honorary Member of the Medical Fraternity, Alpha Omega Alpha; he is a past president of the Stanislaus County Medical Society and he served as the Hospital Examiner for the California Medical Association and the Joint Commission for Hospital Accreditation in the United States from 1965 until 2000. Dr. Johnson also served as the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee for the Medic Alert Foundation, where he also served on the Board of Directors for twenty-five years and as a consultant for eleven years. He is involved with the American Medical Association, American College of Professors and is a past member of the California Society of Internal Medicine and the American Society of Internal Medicine. Outside of medicine, Dr. Johnson is a past

president of the Rotary Club in Turlock, a member of the Church Council for Nazareth Lutheran Church. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of Turlock High School for thirteen years and was a Board Member for the Turlock High School Auditorium Restoration Committee, and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Everett Johnson upon being named the 2009 John Darroch Memorial Award/Outstanding Physician Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Johnson many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
WHITE PLAINS**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of the founding of White Plains, Tennessee. In recognizing the anniversary of White Plains, we are also recognizing the creation of Putnam County.

On Christmas Day 1809, Lt. William Pennington Quarles, a Revolutionary War hero, and his family, which included his wife, Ann Hawes Quarles, 10 children, four sons-in-law; and 30 slaves, reached their new home in White Plains. Having traveled down Walton Road from Bedford County, Virginia, Lt. Quarles and his family built a log cabin on land in White Plains, some of which was purchased from Daniel Alexander.

The Quarles family expanded an inn built by Mr. Alexander and added a general store, blacksmith shop, post office and farm. Andrew Jackson and other dignitaries of the time stayed at the inn on their way to Washington, D.C. and during trips to other cities east and west.

Lt. Quarles began to practice law in what was then White County and was appointed judge. His court convened in the blacksmith shop. Lt. Quarles was also a Mason, in addition to serving in the White County Militia. He was the postmaster of the White Plains Post Office until his untimely death in 1813 when he was shot a few miles from his home while returning from a meeting in Sparta.

Between 1813 and 1842, the population of the area surrounding White Plains increased substantially. Residents successfully petitioned the Tennessee state government to create a new county—Putnam County—from areas of White, Overton and Jackson counties.

White Plains became the trade center of Putnam County, where elections and public speeches were held. Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk spoke there during their respective presidential campaigns.

The log cabin that Lt. Quarles built after arriving in White Plains in 1809 stayed in his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

family's name until the mid-1950s when Harvey Draper and his daughter, Mildred Summers, purchased it and began restoration. Plans are now underway to place the home and slave graveyard on the National Historic Register.

June 6, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of White Plains, and what would later become Putnam County.

HONORING JAMES T. PHILLIPS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mayor James T. Phillips, who has committed the past five years of his life to being the mayor of the Township of Old Bridge. Under his leadership, Old Bridge has thrived and become a vibrant home to many New Jersey citizens. On May 3, 2009 his accomplishments earned him the Hubert H. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award, presented by the Middlesex County AFL-CIO.

Every year since 1983, the Middlesex County Central Labor Council has recognized a prominent individual who has followed the example of U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's dedication to human and civil rights. As a leader and key proponent of labor unions and their interests, Humphrey furthered the rights of laborers across the nation. Mayor Phillips has followed in his footsteps as a strong advocate for labor who has furthered the cause of labor unions and civil rights.

The Honorable James T. Phillips has become a valuable leader and advocate for the state of New Jersey. The mayor began his career in 1995 as the Middlesex County Treasurer, as well as serving on the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. His involvement with the County Board led to the acquisition of a 2,500 acre plot of land designated for public open space. In addition to acquiring this land for open space he created the Middlesex Co. Old Bridge Waterfront Park, which maintains a healthy and protected community forest.

The influence of Mayor Phillip's hard work and his active presence in the area extends throughout the Township of Old Bridge. Mayor Phillips is a member of the Old Bridge Township Housing and Redevelopment Agency, which has founded two important residences: the Maher Manor and the Chuck Costello Home. The Maher Manor is a 100-unit complex that provides senior citizens with health, wellness and recreation activities. The Chuck Costello Home offers independent living for seniors with more than 60 units of housing.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mayor Phillips on this achievement and thanking him for his service to the community. His accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and future generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the upcoming 150th anniversary of Wyandotte County, Kansas, which is one of three counties composing the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On June 6th and 7th, the Wyandotte County Historical Museum will commemorate Wyandotte County's 150th anniversary, including activities featuring re-enactors, speakers, dancers and music.

In the territorial period of Kansas, previous to 1859, the area that is embraced in Wyandotte County was a part of Leavenworth and Johnson counties. Thus, with the domination of the "Leavenworth crowd," or of the Missourians who came over into Kansas territory, the citizens at the mouth of the Kansas River had little influence over the affairs of government or of politics. The first election in the county, aside from the elections held by the Indians themselves before the organization of the territory, was in June 1857 to select a delegate to the Lecompton constitutional convention. The polls were guarded by soldiers and the votes were deposited in a candle box, which was afterward found buried in a woodpile at Lecompton and became historically infamous. In October of the same year the county came into notice again, politically, due to the stuffing of a ballot box and other frauds, perpetrated at the Delaware crossing, eight miles west of Wyandotte. It is said that many of the names found on the poll list could also be found in a New York City directory, which some enterprising pro-slavery advocate happened to have in his possession at that time.

The political history of Wyandotte County, however, began with its organization under an act passed by the legislature of January 1859, the same legislature that authorized the Wyandotte constitutional convention. The act, signed by Governor Medearby on January 29, 1859, cut off one hundred and fifty-three square miles from the southeast corner of Leavenworth County and the north side of Johnson County. The Wyandotte Constitutional Convention was a key event in Kansas history. From this convention, Wyandotte County was created, Kansas became a state that was free from slavery, and women were given some rights in voting and holding property. The county is named after the Wyandot (a.k.a. Wyandott or Wyandotte) Indians. They were called the Huron by the French in Canada, but they called themselves Wendat. They were distantly related to the Iroquis, with whom they sometimes fought. They had hoped to hold off movement by white Americans into their territory and had hoped to make the Ohio River the border between the United States and Canada. One branch of the Wyandot moved to the area that is now the state of Ohio. They generally took the course of assimilation into Anglo-American society. Many of them embraced Christianity under the influence of missionaries. They were transported to the current area of Wyandotte County in 1843, where they set up a community and worked in cooperation with Anglo settlers.

The Christian Munsee also influenced early settlement of this area.

Wyandotte County, with roughly 160,000 residents, today boasts one of the most vibrant economies in the state of Kansas and an amazing story of resurgence. Comprised of the cities of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville and Kansas City, Kansas, the entire county has embraced a unified vision for the future. This vision has produced a monumental transformation over the last several years with the creation of the Kansas City metro area's premier tourist and retail destination including the Kansas Speedway, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Cabela's, the Legends at Village West, and Schlitterbahn Vacation Village. The explosion of development in the western portion of the City of Kansas City, Kansas, is also paving the way for redevelopment opportunities in the eastern portion of the city.

Madam Speaker, I know that all members of this House join with me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Wyandotte County, Kansas. I am proud to represent it in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING LORDS AND LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. For the past twenty-five years, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has selected two people from their district who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, more than 470 individuals have been recognized as a Lord or Lady Fairfax by their representative on the Board of Supervisors.

Individuals recognized as Lords and Ladies of Fairfax have made significant contributions in their communities. This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized outstanding individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety providers, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments by the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and should be commended.

The following individuals were recognized as Lord and Lady Fairfax Honorees for 2009. Each of these individuals was selected as a result of his or her outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other special achievements. These individuals have earned our praise and appreciation.

Chairman of the Board—At Large: Lady Corazon Sandoval Foley and Lord William "Bill" Hanks

Braddock District: Lady Pamela K. Barrett and Lord Thomas Frenzinger

Dranesville District: Lady Lisa Lombardozzi and Lord Vance Zavala

Hunter Mill District: Lady Joan Dempsey and Lord Howard Springsteen

Lee District: Lady Michele Menapace and Lord Doug Koelmay

Mason District: Lady Suzanne Holland and Lord Kevin Holland

Mt. Vernon District: Lady Christine Morin and Lord Gilbert McCutcheon

Providence District: Lady Lola Quintela and Lord G. Ray Worley

Springfield District: Lady Leslie Carlin and Lord Erik Hawkins

Sully District: Lady Patricia "Trish" Strat and Lord David L. Lacey

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides innumerable benefits to Northern Virginia and serves to strengthen and enrich our communities.

RECOGNIZING MARILYNN RUBIO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marilynn Rubio, a member of my staff. Friday, May 29, was Marilynn's last day as the Congressional Aide in our office. Marilynn has been serving the people of the Illinois Fifth Congressional District with distinction since 2007, and deserves our wholehearted thanks for her efforts.

After graduating from DePaul University in 2007, Marilynn went to work for my predecessor, Rahm Emanuel, beginning as an intern. After spending a few months working for Emily's List, Marilynn returned to Congressman Emanuel's office in April 2008, working in the District Office and the Washington Office as a Congressional Aide.

Marilynn has been extremely helpful to me as I've begun my time in Congress. I have certainly benefited from her experience handling casework for Spanish-speaking constituents, managing the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois office in the interim period, and assisting with travel, records and logistics for our new office.

I would like to wish Marilynn the best of luck in her future endeavors, whether it be teaching English to students in Brazil, attending law school, or any other adventure. I know that she will find success in whatever path she chooses, and I thank her for her service to the people of the Illinois Fifth Congressional District.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE'S 114TH ANNIVERSARY AND DEPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK, JULY 19, 2009–JULY 25, 2009

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and 114 years of dedicated service to our service men and women.

Founded on August 25, 1895, the War Department envisioned an exchange at every

post where practical to bring our troops a taste of Americana. Since then AAFES has expanded to over 3,100 facilities worldwide. The growth and success of this exchange service is due in large part to the numerous employees, now totaling over 43,000 associates, dedicated to serving and supporting our service members and their families. For Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, over 450 associates annually volunteered for deployment, choosing to follow our troops wherever they may go and proudly upholding the AAFES motto of "We go where you go!" Their dedication, courage, and patriotism are commendable and resonate deeply within each of us, as we stand united in our support for our soldiers and AAFES.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating AAFES for 114 years of exemplary service and in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering support of our armed forces.

DARBY HIEB

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darby Hieb who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darby Hieb is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darby Hieb is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Darby Hieb for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD PROTO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with special and personal gratification that I introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the Nation and the people of my District, especially in my home town of New Haven, Connecticut, the enormously gratifying and important tribute that was paid to Richard Proto on May 18, 2009, by the United States National Security Agency. who died last July after a hard-fought bout with cancer, was recognized by the NSA with the naming of the "Richard C. Proto Symposium Center" within the NSA compound at Fort Meade, Maryland. It is only the second time the NSA has formally named one of its facilities.

Richard was born and raised in the Fair Haven section of New Haven, a graduate of

the city's public schools—Strong, Fair Haven, and Wilbur Cross High School—and the son of Matthew and Celeste Proto, both active in the political life of our community at the same time as my own parents. Like many of the children of immigrants—Richard's mother was born in Italy and immigrated with her parents in 1916 at six years old, and both his grandparents were immigrants from Italy as well—his parents encouraged education, broadly defined, and a commitment to public service as a way of ensuring more fairness in the Nation they now called home. Richard was educated at Fairfield University, where he received his bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1962 and at Boston College, where he received his master's degree in mathematics in 1964. He then joined the NSA.

His contribution to the Nation—he served at NSA for thirty-five years; its Director of Research from 1994 to 1999—was described by the current Director of Research, Jim Schatz, in these terms during the ceremony: Richard was "Universally regarded as one of the Agency's most visionary thinkers. He influenced NSA unmatched by anyone else in recent history . . . Nearly twenty years ago, when large scale networking was still in its infancy, Richard anticipated the emergence of cyberspace as a battleground for national defense, and committed himself to ensuring NSA was prepared. . . . [His] life was a celebration of intellectual power dedicated to the service of his country. He was an exemplary American . . . NSA and the Nation owe him a debt of gratitude." Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI (Maryland), in her capacity as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, in a letter following Richard's death, wrote that "By any definition of the words, Mr. Proto was a warfighter and a patriot. He set high standards of performance at NSA and inspired others to conform to his expectations. He dedicated his life to the security of this Nation and has left a contribution that will endure for decades." During his career, Richard received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. Since his retirement in 1999, he remained as an adviser to the intelligence community, the national laboratories, and the Institute for Defense Analysis at Princeton, until his death.

Richard's family was present and participated in the ceremony, including his brother, Neil Proto, also a New Haven public school graduate and now a lawyer in Washington, D.C. and a professor of public policy at Georgetown University, and his sister, Diana Proto Avino, an educator and mathematics consultant in the public school system in Clinton, Connecticut, and formerly a nationally-recognized teacher of the year. Richard had been raised in New Haven among twenty-six cousins, four of whom made the journey from Connecticut. Richard was truly a product of his community and his Italian-American heritage. He was a member of the famed 1958 Wilbur Cross team that won the New England High School basketball championship in the Boston Garden that captured the soul of our community when I was a teenager. Mr. Proto also was the founder of the Antonio Gatto Lodge of the Sons of Italy in Laurel, Maryland.

I am personally gratified to recognize Richard; a wonderful American who exercised his

responsibility when the duty was his; who helped ensure the safety of our men and women soldiers in the tumult of combat; who rose to the highest rank of a dedicated public servant from the neighborhoods of New Haven, and who never lost sight of his origins and their values; the son of an immigrant insistent on defining America in its highest ideals.

HONORING JUDGE PAUL V.
GADOLA

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Judge Paul V. Gadola. The Greater Flint Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union bestowed the 2009 Thomas A. Baltus Civil Libertarian of the Year Award upon Judge Gadola at a dinner held last Thursday, May 28, in my hometown of Flint Michigan.

Paul Gadola graduated from Michigan State University in 1951 and received his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1953. After serving in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955, he returned to his home in Flint and started a private practice. President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment in October 1988, and on January 6, 1989 he took office. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 2008.

Judge Gadola is certified as a Diplomat in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, a Lifetime Fellow of the American Trial Lawyers Foundation, served as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, a mediator for the Circuit Courts of Genesee and Shiawassee Counties, and is a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. Judge Gadola is a member of the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Association—Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, the Board of Directors of the Historical Society for the U.S. District Court of Eastern Michigan, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies and the Advisory Committee of its Michigan Chapter. He is a member of the Philadelphia Society, the Economic Club of Detroit, Committee of Sponsors of the Flint College and Cultural Development Fund, the Hannah Society, and he has served as the President of the Incorporated Society of Irish/American Lawyers. As an alumnus of Michigan State University he has served the school's President's Club, the Board of Directors of the MSU Development Fund, and as a member of Directors of the school's Alumni Association. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Mott Community College Foundation.

Over the years he has served the Urban League of Flint as President, the Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation of Genesee County as President, the March of Dimes of Genesee County as Chairman, Genesee County Legal Aid Society as Vice-President, he has been a Director of the Flint Environmental Action Team and the Flint Area Convention and

Tourist Council. Preceding his time on the bench, Judge Gadola was elected to the Board of Trustees of Mott Community College from 1969 to 1989. He served as Chair from 1983 to 1989.

Madam Speaker, Judge Paul Gadola was a founding member of the Flint Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union when the organization formed in 1963. The American Civil Liberties Union gave this award to him because of his hard work on behalf of the right to free association, the right to equal protection of the laws, the right to free speech, and the right to effective assistance of counsel. I have known Judge Gadola for many years and have benefited from his legal counsel and sage advice. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him as he is honored for his work on behalf of our civil liberties.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2009 FAIRFAX EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION HUMAN AND CIVIL
RIGHTS COMMITTEE WALT MIKA
AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the awardees of the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) Human and Civil Rights Committee Walt Mika Awards. The mission of the FEA Human and Civil Rights Committee includes advocacy and review responsibility to ensure that the policies, practices and programs of the Fairfax County Public Schools are inclusive and represent all ethnic, minority, gender and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLTB) groups. The Committee recommends strategies to address GLTB, racial, ethnic and gender issues to ensure a quality educational experience for all students. In addition, the Committee promotes diversity awareness to recognize and celebrate the diverse cultures that enrich Fairfax County.

These awards are named after Walt Mika. Mr. Mika dedicated more than 30 years to the education of our youth as a teacher and also as former FEA and Virginia Education Association President. With the establishment of the FEA Retirement Housing Corporation and the development of the Educational Employees Supplemental Retirement System for Fairfax County, Mr. Mika has made significant improvements in the lives of thousands of retired teachers and Fairfax County Public School employees.

The recipients of the Walt Mika Award are recognized for their outstanding commitment to the education of children in Fairfax County. In addition to serving as notable educators, these individuals serve as role models for their students through their many and varied activities outside the classroom.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the following recipients for their positive influence in the lives of students and their roles in promoting diversity:

Deb Crierie, Retired Art Teacher
Robbie Ellen, Instructional Assistant
Illyong Moon, School Board Member
Janice Winters, PhD, Community Activist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions these individuals and all of the educators serving the children of Fairfax County. They provide enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia and life-changing experiences to the children they mentor.

TRIBUTE TO GARY HOLMES
FAGAN

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Gary Holmes Fagan upon his completion of 34 years of service to Albemarle County Public Schools. For 32 of these years, he served as the Band Director at J.T. Henley Middle School, imparting to thousands of young students the lasting gift of a musical education. As one of the many students privileged to have studied with Mr. Fagan, it is an honor to acknowledge his contribution to the community.

Gary Fagan was born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, the son of a teacher and a musician. He earned his undergraduate degree in Music Education at Bridgewater College and his master's degree in Music Education from James Madison University. He has taught music since 1973, moved to Albemarle County to teach in 1975, where he lives today with his wife, Phyllis. A fellow lover of music, Phyllis will also retire this year from her position as Choral Director for Henley Middle School. He is active in the Music Educators National Conference and the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association, the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, and the National Band Association, as well as playing percussionist with the Charlottesville Municipal Band and composing over 30 original pieces of music.

During his time at Henley Middle School, Mr. Fagan was the recipient of numerous accolades and honors from the community and beyond, including the Piedmont Council of the Arts Outstanding Educator Award, the Central Virginia Outstanding Middle School Teacher of the Year by the UVA chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, the WINA Teacher of the Month, National Band Association "Band Booster Award," membership in the James Madison University Music Education Advisory Council and the Phi Beta Mu International School Bandmasters Fraternity, and a Presidential Citation from the Governor's School of Virginia for the Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Richmond. Under his tutelage, the Concert Band has consistently attained superior ratings at the District Band festival, the Jazz Band has brought home 1st place at the Tri-State Jazz Festival for 3 out of the past 5 years, and the Marching Band has received scores of prestigious awards, including trophies from the Dogwood Parade, the Harrisonburg Poultry Parade and the Culpeper Firemen's Parade.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fagan has consistently brought out the best in each student, whether the student began middle school having played music for years or never having read a note of music. His students have widely varying backgrounds, abilities, and unique

talents, but he is always patient, even with a future Congressman who struggled to extract melodious sounds from a baritone saxophone. By the end of each school year, however, the students have become a cohesive team, an accomplishment made evident in the annual spring concert in which his students play while marching in formation down Charlottesville's Market Street. In helping each student reach his or her potential, he has consistently created accomplished ensembles of young musicians dedicated to ensuring the school music program's continued success. He has been important to my whole family, particularly my late father, Vito Perriello, who found in Gary a like-minded music lover as well as a teacher he could trust to share such a love with his— and others'—children.

Many of Mr. Fagan's students have been inspired to enter the field of music and performing arts as a career, and their accomplishments will continue his legacy. For those of his students who have gone to other fields, his invaluable lessons of teamwork, dedication, and striving for personal excellence still persist. On behalf of Albemarle County and Virginia's 5th District, I thank Mr. Fagan for his generosity and devotion in sharing his talent throughout the years and wish both him and Phyllis all the best in their retirement.

HONORING MONUMENT BANK

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and opening of the new headquarters for Monument Bank in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

This day 141 years ago marks the anniversary of the official dedication of the Doylestown Monument. The Doylestown landmark commemorates the officers and men of the 104th Pennsylvania Regiment who fell in the Civil War, and serves as the namesake for Monument Bank.

The founding members and shareholders of the new Monument Bank have a proven history of successful local banking. They have provided some of the most outstanding professional banking services in our area, recognizing the importance of local community relationships and support. Their service and community leadership will undoubtedly be an important asset to Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

I applaud Monument Bank for moving forward in these trying economic times to provide valuable banking services to our community. Madam Speaker, I proudly recognize Monument Bank and I extend my congratulations on the dedication of their headquarters today.

RECOGNIZING EMMA JURADO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Emma Jurado, a member of my staff. Friday, May 29, was Emma's last

day as a Legislative Aide and Scheduler in our office. Emma served the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois with distinction from 2003–2005, returned in 2007, and deserves our wholehearted appreciation for her efforts.

After graduating from Georgetown University in 2005, Emma went to work for my predecessor, Rahm Emanuel, beginning as a Staff Assistant. After spending a year working for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and the National AIDS Marathon Training Program, Emma returned to Congressman Emanuel's office in January 2007, working as a Legislative Aide and Scheduler.

In addition to doing superlative work for my predecessor, Emma has been an extraordinary asset to my office as we've managed the transition process. This process has been a lot of hard work, but that is nothing new to Emma. Whether it was handling science and technology, art, innovation, or postal issues legislation, assisting the people of the Fifth Congressional District during the interim period, or establishing my scheduling operation, Emma has always given her all.

I would like to wish Emma the best of luck working in President Obama's Administration. I am confident that she will find success in whatever path she chooses, and I thank her for her service to the people of Illinois' Fifth Congressional District.

JOHN HORTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Horton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Horton is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Horton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to John Horton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY TRAIL PROJECT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, the Bay Trail Project will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on July 6, 2009 at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center in Hayward, California. A commemorative event will highlight the adoption of the Bay Trail Plan by the Association of Bay

Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board since July 1989 and will point to the accomplishments and importance of the Bay Trail over the past 20 years. California State Senator Bill Lockyer will be honored for his contributions of creating and preserving the Bay Trail.

In 1987, then-California State Senator Bill Lockyer conceived the idea of a hiking and bicycling trail that would encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. His plan was often called "Ring Around the Bay." Lockyer authored Senate Bill 100 authorizing ABAG to, "develop and adopt a plan for a continuous recreational corridor which will extend around the perimeter of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays." SB 100 required that the plan include: a specific trail route, connections to parks and other recreational facilities, links to existing and proposed public transportation facilities, an implementation and funding program for the trail, and provisions for implementing the trail without adversely affecting the natural environment of the Bay. SB 100 was passed into law with widespread support.

A broad-ranging advisory committee to ABAG developed the Bay Trail Plan over a 2-year period and its policies continue today to guide the development of the Bay Trail.

For oversight of the Hayward section of the Bay Trail, the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA) was formed in 1971. HASPA continues to preserve and advocate for the Hayward shoreline as part of the Bay Trail. To date, slightly more than half of the Bay Trail's ultimate alignment, approximately 293 miles out of the envisioned 500-mile trail, has been completed.

I join the Bay Area community in honoring State Treasurer Bill Lockyer for his vision in authoring SB 100, ABAG for developing the plan for the recreational corridor, HASPA for its oversight and stewardship of the Hayward section of the Bay Trail and all the individuals who continue to contribute to the success of the Bay Trail. The Bay Trail is a treasured gift for all to enjoy.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN SLEDZ

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Master Sergeant John Sledz upon his upcoming retirement from the United States Air Force after 30 years of service to our country.

Chief Sledz has reached the pinnacle of enlisted service, the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Less than 1 percent of airmen are allowed to hold this rank, and achieving it is a testimony to the extraordinary abilities that Chief Sledz has put to work for the protection of our nation.

He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among many others awards and decorations. He has served on three continents and five different states, and is concluding his career in

the position of Chief, Fuels Management Flight, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina.

By focusing his career on the critical logistical tasks required in maintaining the Air Force's ability to launch aircraft, Chief Sledz's efforts have contributed mightily to the safety and well being of the citizens of this country and the stability of the world. We owe him a debt of gratitude that is impossible to repay. He has set a high example of service, leadership, caring, and commitment that all would do well to follow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Chief Sledz and his family on his well-deserved retirement, and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his accomplishments.

HONORING DR. VINCENT J. VIVONA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Dr. Vincent J. Vivona, who has dedicated his time to fighting cardiovascular disease and stroke. Throughout his many years of service, Dr. Vivona has worked to make the community of Ocean County a healthier place to live. On May 30, 2009 his accomplishments earned him the Ronald Rubinstein, M.D. Hearts-In-Action Award, presented by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association at the annual Have A Heart Ball.

Once a year, this prestigious award is given to a health care professional who embodies the spirit and commitment of Dr. Ronald Rubinstein. As a former regional president of the American Heart Association Board in Central-South Jersey, Dr. Rubinstein devoted himself to his community. Dr. Vivona has inherited this passion by also using his skills for the benefit of those around him.

Dr. Vivona has become a valuable member of the state of New Jersey, and this is largely due to his distinguished past. He is the founding member of Brick Cardiovascular Specialists P.A., a group that strives to provide its patients with the highest quality medical care. Additionally, Dr. Vivona has served as Chief of Staff at Ocean Medical Center and Chief of Cardiology at Community Medical Center. Currently, he is an active member of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Cardiology, two institutions that relentlessly strive for a healthier America.

Rarely do you find someone who has such a deeply rooted interest in the well-being of his community. Dr. Vivona has practiced in Ocean County for the past 30 years. Moreover, he has resided within Toms River for 29 years. Dr. Vivona's place in the New Jersey community has allowed the citizens of my great state to receive the best care in dealing with cardiovascular disease and stroke. I am certain that Dr. Vivona will continue to serve his community with the same dedication he has shown in the past.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Vivona on this achievement and thanking him for his service to the community. His accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and future generations.

MISTY HOCKMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Misty Hockman who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Misty Hockman is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Misty Hockman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Misty Hockman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING NI INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NI Industries, Inc. for over fifty-five years of business in Stanislaus County. Although the company is relocating, I would like to recognize NI Industries for its success while in California.

NI Industries, formally known as Norris Industries, Inc., was founded in 1930. The company manufactures over four hundred high quality munitions products including cartridge cases, mortars, projectile bodies, grenade bodies, rocket motors, warheads and rocket launchers. Headquartered in Vernon, California, NI is the United States Army's Industrial Mobilization Base Supplier with over one million square feet in manufacturing space. Their unique capabilities are unrivalled anywhere in the world, with over fifteen hundred pieces of equipment and many thousand tons of press capacity.

NI has been the operating contractor at the Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant in Riverbank, California since 1951. Since the reactivation of the cartridge case facility at the Riverbank plant ten years ago, the company has produced over half a million cases of the Navy's 5"/54 gun and the Army's 105mm gun on the Stryker. NI Industries has also been an innovative leader in the development of the steel cartridge case for the Navy's 155mm-Advanced Gun Systems (AGS) for the DD (1000) Program.

The metal manufacturing technology that NI uses employs a deep draw process and a unique technology, to produce a single, unwelded piece of alloyed metal with high precision to fit a complex configuration. The company has management, technical and manufacturing teams with hundreds of years of experience in the defense industry. They take

great pride in their engineers and researchers, as well as their production artisans and machinists. With the registration of the ISO 9001 and the ISO 14001, NI has taken appropriate steps to further ensure both products and processes meet the highest quality and environmental standards. Their attention to detail and technical capabilities has earned NI the reputation for being the only munitions manufacturer capable of deep drawing a combination of steel, brass and aluminum.

Due to the outcome of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Law, the highly successful cartridge case facility at the Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant will be beginning the relocation process in June 2009. The plant is being relocated to Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, and the relocation project will be completed in 2012. NI will operate the new facility and continue its production of cartridge cases and other products with the same care of quality.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish NI Industries the best of luck with the relocation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing NI Industries, Inc. continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH M. ARTHUR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Joseph Arthur, Special Assistant to the Commander 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB, Duke Field, Florida.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur was commissioned through the Air Force Officer Training School in 1981 and entered Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in 1982. Upon graduation from UPT, he was assigned to the 711th Special Operations Squadron as an AC-130A Spectre Gunship Pilot. In 1997, he joined the 5th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) flying the MC-130P. During his service with the 5th SOS, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur served as Aircraft Commander, Instructor Pilot, Chief Pilot, Chief of Training, Director of Operations and Combat Mission Commander.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur has deployed and supported combat operations in the air and on the ground in support of Operations Just Cause, Restore Democracy, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His command experience in support of the Global War on Terrorism includes serving as Mission Commander, Air Force Special Operations Detachment-South, Jacobabad Air Base, Pakistan, Deputy Commander, Joint Special Operations Air Component, Masirah Air Base, Oman. His other deployments include peacetime aerial reconnaissance missions in Central America and participation in military operations over Haiti.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Lieutenant Colonel John M. Arthur for his excellent leadership and selfless service in the United States Air Force and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING MR. MARTIN J.
MARASCO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Martin J. Marasco. As this year's recipient of the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award, Marty has shown exemplary performance as a businessman, a community leader, a philanthropist, and a role model.

Through his 39 years affiliation with the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Marty has worked at developing and delivering purposeful and creative programs and services involving all aspects of the economic development process to his community. He is responsible for much of the industrial and commercial economic expansion that has been crucial to Blair County's growth and development.

Marty's experiences in all facets of economic development have enabled him to be successful in his dealings with local, state, and federal agencies as well as commercial and industrial clients. His ability to capitalize on both public and private financing vehicles has led to the creation and preservation of 17,580 jobs, and serves to demonstrate how good business sense and strong work ethic can benefit the individual as well as the community.

The diverse background and numerous accomplishments Marty has spent a lifetime working toward have allowed him to be extremely active in his community. He is Past Chair and Member of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, as well as a Member and Vice Chairman of the Executive Roundtable of Blair County. Always supportive of community sports activities, Marty coached instructional level through elementary basketball for 25 years. He also served, for 8 years, as the treasurer and coach for the Altoona Little League baseball program.

As a family man, Marty has been a husband to his wife Carol for nearly 42 years; he is a father to eight children, and a grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. Marty's efforts and accomplishments serve to exemplify great service to self, family, and community. For these reasons I commend those who have seen fit to honor Marty with this year's Distinguished Citizen Award, and I too recognize and congratulate Marty Marasco for all he has done.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. WEXLER,
PH.D

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend, Robert D. Wexler, on the occasion of his thirty years of service to the American Jewish University (AJU), and particularly his service as president for the past seventeen years.

During the first decade of his presidency at AJU, Dr. Wexler launched three major initia-

tives which promote education, understanding and peace: the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies, the Center for Israel Studies, and the Ziering Institute. Under his leadership, AJU started its Community Partners Initiative in which the university reaches out to the many ethnic and religious communities of Los Angeles. He has helped AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education become the largest Jewish adult education program in the United States with more than 15,000 participants each year.

In addition to his work at the American Jewish University, Dr. Wexler has served in many community leadership roles. He chaired the Los Angeles Federation's Commission on Israelis and the Committee on Jewish Education. He has also published several articles, including contributions to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Etz Hayim commentary on the Torah, and a volume entitled Israel, the Diaspora and Jewish Identity.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Wexler received his B.A. in Sociology from UCLA, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he also earned a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Literature. While enrolled in rabbinical school, Dr. Wexler also earned his M.B.A. from Baruch College in New York City. Following his ordination, he spent a year on the faculty of Princeton University, teaching in the Department of Middle East Studies. Dr. Wexler later earned both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. from UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages.

Dr. Wexler is included every year in Newsweek's list of America's 50 most influential rabbis, ranking number three in 2008. He has also been included on the Forward's list of the 50 most significant American Jewish leaders.

Dr. Wexler is married to Dr. Hana Wexler, the Director of the Wadsworth Anaerobe Laboratory at the Veteran's Administration in West Los Angeles. They have four children: Daniella, Elisheva, Zev and Nili.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Robert D. Wexler for his impressive career and dedication to the community and the American Jewish University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his thirty years of service.

JESSICA KALIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Kalin who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Kalin is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Kalin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jessica Kalin for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT HAWKINS ON
BEING NAMED DEAN OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS LABOR COUNCIL
AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working families from my hometown Waco, Texas, Robert Hawkins. This week, we celebrate Robert's 50th year of service, and congratulate him on being named Dean of the Central Texas Labor Council.

Prior to his appointment to the Council, he served on the State Job Training Coordinating Council and has held a number of appointments from six Texas Governors. After 30 years of service, Mr. Hawkins retired as the Director of Special Programs at Texas State Technical College in Waco. During his 30 years at the college, he was instrumental in pioneering work in the area of career education and economic development training. He is Chair Emeritus of the Central Texas Economic Development Council and is Chairman Emeritus of the Heart of Texas Economic Development District Board of Directors. He serves his community as a member of the Bellmead City Council and has served four terms as Mayor.

Mr. Hawkins is also a proud member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 529, Texas Academy of Science, and the Texas Technical Society. He has served as a member of an Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Health, on a Senate Advisory Committee for Vocational-Technical Education, as Vice-Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and on the President's Council of Youth Opportunity.

Robert is also a true friend to our troops, veterans, and their families. He served in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired with 25 years of combined military service with the rank of Colonel. Robert was attached to the 5th Armored Division, D Battery at Camp Chafee, Arkansas, on September 24, 1957, and participated in the pre-dawn exercises to secure Central High School in Little Rock in preparation for integration of the school. He also taught military courses at the National Guard Professional Education Center and for the Department of Defense.

Robert has received numerous awards for military and public service and humanitarian activities. Among these are the Distinguished Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal and the Clara Barton Medal from the American Red Cross.

I want to personally thank Robert for his lifetime of service to our community. He is an example of someone who has truly made a positive difference in the lives of others.

HONORING RALPH AND ROBERT BROWN FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, brothers Ralph and Robert Brown. Ralph and Robert will be attempting a 2nd Guinness World Record this summer by sailing non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from Tampa, Florida to Hamburg, Germany to raise funds for Wounded Warrior Foundations.

In 2007, Ralph and Robert set their first Guinness World Record for the "longest non-stop ocean voyage in a flats boat" traveling from North Carolina to Bermuda and back to New York in a 21-foot open fishing boat of their own design. This voyage garnered a great deal of publicity and convinced the brothers to use this notoriety to raise money for Wounded Warriors Organizations in the future. Ralph and Robert will be using the publicity from their second voyage to raise money for six Wounded Warrior and Disabled Veterans Organizations, having set a goal of \$3 million.

In 1980, former Marine Ralph Brown was placed on the roster to liberate the American Embassy in Iran during the hostage takeover. However, at the last minute Ralph's group was replaced by another group of soldiers, out of which three men were killed. Mr. Brown and his brother have since dedicated their lives to honoring the lives of these three soldiers and their many other brave countrymen.

Madam Speaker, Ralph and Robert Brown truly are doing more than just saying "thanks," by raising money and awareness for our nation's wounded warriors. And they are doing so in one of the most original manners possible.

CONGRATULATING DONEISHA BROWN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening the Michelle Mitzvah Group and the Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple of Mahwah will bestow their LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship upon an outstanding young woman, Doneisha Brown. Doneisha is a graduating senior at Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, where she is ranked in the top 5 percent of her class. During her time at Eastside, Doneisha was active in the PEER Leadership Program, a student-run organization that helps incoming freshmen acclimate to a high school setting. PEER seeks to create a positive, reaffirming community by creating small support groups that cut across class divides, and by standing up against physical, emotional, and psychological bullying. Along with contributing to this very important organization, Doneisha is a scholar athlete, having competed in track and field and girl's softball.

The Michelle Mitzvah Group was founded by Marc Applebaum as a living memorial to

his daughter Michelle, who succumbed to leukemia. The Michelle Mitzvah Group seeks to practice the Jewish covenant of Mitzvah through "hands-on projects," such as ministering at children's hospitals, food banks, and homeless shelters. The Group also raises money for charities, sponsors blood drives, and collects items for our wounded veterans. Three years ago, Nathan LeBron partnered with the Michelle Mitzvah Group to form the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund. Nathan is a cancer survivor who grew up in a dysfunctional home and was mentored by Marc Applebaum. With the love and support of individuals such as Marc, Nathan went on to graduate from SUNY Albany and Harvard University. Nathan formed the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund to help other promising-yet-disadvantaged youths in receiving the help and guidance they require to go on to college or technical school.

Doneisha Brown is an exceptional student and role model for her peers. I am proud of her accomplishments, and expect great things from her as she continues her education. I am also proud of the Michelle Mitzvah Group and Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple on helping make a college education possible for Ms. Brown. Through this scholarship and countless other acts of selfless service, the individuals involved have made their community a better place. I wish all the very best in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall 289—"yea"; Rollcall 290—"yea"; Rollcall 291—"nay".

YARITZA HUERTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yaritza Huerta, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yaritza Huerta is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yaritza Huerta is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Yaritza Huerta for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career in her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. WALLY AND MARY GROTZ ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Wally and Mary Grotz of Delano, Minnesota, on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. For the last sixty years, they have raised four children and lived in the homestead Wally built while the town of Delano grew into a city. But this is no ordinary couple; they are some of America's "Greatest Generation" and both have tremendous wisdom to share from their personal histories.

Wally was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II and at one point served under American film legend, Jimmy Stewart. But Wally's story goes much deeper. He was shot down over Germany in 1944 and taken as a Prisoner of War until May of 1945. When he returned home he found a job at the local post office where he worked for 34 years, serving as Postmaster for 16 years.

Mary spent her time working for Minnesota-based food producer, General Mills. Her job was as unique as she is; she answered cooking and baking questions as Betty Crocker, the General Mills kitchen icon. She still remains active in her church and the Delano community today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Wally and Mary Grotz. Their accomplishments as individuals and dedicated citizens would be enough to warrant recognition, but the love and devotion they have shown to one another sweetens their story as American heroes. I wish them a happiest anniversary and another sixty years together!

IN HONOR OF GERALD OEHLER, M.D.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, for more than 50 years, Dr. Gerald Oehler has dedicated his life and his work to the care and well being of his patients. Born January 29, 1933 in Harvey, North Dakota, Dr. Oehler's well rounded medical education came from Kansas University Medical Center, where he was trained in several specialties and gained the broad-based knowledge that would become his hallmark. Graduating from medical school in 1958, Dr. Oehler put his skills to work for his country, enjoying a distinguished career in the United States Navy.

Named to the staff at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System in 1966 and Board Certified in 1973, Dr. Oehler's practice was dedicated to the entire patient. In his four decades at Salinas Valley Memorial, his surgical and family practice touched the lives of thousands in the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Oehler's specialty was the patient, his practice in the operating room, at bedside or in his medical office. Regardless of the location, his knowledge and experience touched and saved lives.

While witness to many changes in medical techniques and styles, Dr. Oehler showed a remarkable ability to adapt, and to keep his focus on patient-based medicine. His legacy will long remain a testament to that focus.

Dr. Gerald Oehler became Physician Emeritus at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on June 1, 2007. His dedication and professionalism will remain as an inspiration to all who follow.

HONORING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD J. McCUE FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE (NCIS)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Supervisory Special Agent Richard J. McCue. After 25 years of distinguished and honorable service, he retires this month from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

In addition to his service with the NCIS, Mr. McCue has also served his country as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Since September 11th, Mr. McCue has volunteered for several dangerous overseas assignments, including being part of the first NCIS team in the nation to provide Protective Services support to Coalition Provisional Authority leadership in southern Iraq. During this tour, Mr. McCue conducted over one hundred missions in active combat zones, directly encountering both active fire and several Improvised Explosive Devices.

Among numerous honors and achievements, Mr. McCue was requested by name to formalize the Surveillance Detection Mission for U.S. Forces within Kuwait, as well as forces transitioning to the Theater of Operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition, Mr. McCue volunteered to serve as a forensic expert on the investigative/recovery team at the Pentagon after the September 11th attacks, providing both his expertise and compassionate care for the victims of that attack. In honor of this selfless service, Mr. McCue received the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal as well as the Expeditionary Service Medal.

Please join me in recognizing Richard McCue for his distinguished service to the people of the United States. We wish him well on his retirement.

EATHAN HOLTZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eathan Holtz who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Eathan Holtz is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eathan Holtz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Eathan Holtz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SI FRUMKIN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to join my colleague HOWARD BERMAN in paying tribute to Si Frumkin, who passed away in Los Angeles, California on May 15, 2009. For more than 40 years, Si was a singularly focused and steadfast voice fighting for equality, freedom and dignity. As a Holocaust survivor, he heard a call of duty and answered it with a passionate resolve to not rest until the injustices he identified had been addressed. He was a role model, a mentor, and a friend we will miss.

Born in 1930 in the town of Kaunas, Lithuania, Simas Frumkinas came from an affluent family that was not particularly religious or politically active. When the Germans invaded Kaunas in 1941, and the Communists took over his father's business, the Frumkin family was herded into a Jewish ghetto. The ghetto was liquidated in 1944, and Si and his father were sent to the Dachau concentration camp where he and his father were forced laborers in a Nazi aircraft hangar. Si was just 13 years old.

Si's father passed away just 20 days before Dauchau was liberated in 1945. When the camp was liberated by the U.S. Army, he went on to study in Switzerland, England, and Venezuela, where he was reunited with his mother before graduating from New York University in 1953. Soon after, he arrived in Los Angeles, where he took over a textile company—Universal Drapery Fabrics—and earned a master's degree in History at night at the California State University campus in Northridge.

As he became aware of the repression of Soviet Jews in the early 1960s, Si leapt into action, beginning a relentless journey as a founding father of the Soviet Jewry movement and becoming a mentor and ally on behalf of Soviet Jews. He brought up a young student to UCLA and that student went on to become Los Angeles City Councilman (now County Supervisor) Zev Yaroslavsky. In 1968, he formed the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews and excelled in using unconventional methods to bring attention to the issue. When the Bolshoi ballet performed in Los Angeles, Si wrote up fake programs encouraging patrons to enjoy the ballet but adding a message about the oppression. When President Nixon was visited by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Si released 5,000 balloons with the message, "Let My People Go." With candlelight rallies attended by tens of thousands, letter-writing campaigns and other grass roots efforts, he enlisted a generation into action.

Once the Iron Curtain fell and thousands of Jews were permitted to leave, Si turned his focus to assist in resettling those who arrived in Los Angeles and Southern California. He became the liaison for the émigrés on everything from résumé workshops to clothing drives.

In 1992, Si began publishing "Graffiti for Intellectuals," a bi-weekly newsletter with information and commentary on politics, social issues, and challenges in the community. With candor, conviction and often a touch of humor, his columns expounded on the needs of Holocaust survivors seeking restitution and reparations, the plight of Israel, the fight against anti-Semitism, and other Jewish causes.

In the face of fierce resistance, Si never relented or grew too tired to persevere. His creativity and sincerity inspired people to action. While we mourn his absence, we pay tribute with an enduring debt of gratitude for his remarkable courage and vision. His tremendous legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Si is survived by his wife, Ella, his son, Michael, and two grandchildren. Ella, who always stood solidly beside him and encouraged him to carry on the cause, deserves recognition as an equal partner in his lifelong achievements. Those who knew Si well can attest to his enduring love for his family and his avid collection of chess sets.

We ask that our colleagues join us as we celebrate the remarkable life and tremendous contributions of Si Frumkin. Si was living proof that one person can change the course of history.

CONGRATULATING PAM BRUNETTE ON HER EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Pamela Brunette, a woman who has selflessly devoted her time, talent and energy to our Marines. Her impact on the lives of our troops and their families is immeasurable, the result of her unflagging efforts to boost their morale during some of the most trying periods of their lives.

Like so many, Pam was shocked by the assault on our country that took place on September 11, 2001. She took positive action in a way that would help those sent to defend our lives, liberty and honor. Pam learned about Adoptaplatoon, whose mission it is to "Support America's men and women deployed abroad, while they protect our country." Believing in this mission, Pam joined Adoptaplatoon to support those who sacrifice so much on our behalf.

Pam first adopted a platoon of soldiers who were deployed to Kosovo and Bosnia. As part of her service to these men and women, Pam communicated with them regularly, through letters and emails, bringing a glimpse of "home" to many of them. Even as Pam's adoptees returned from duty, she continued her efforts by caring for newly deployed service members.

When Marines from Engineer Company B deployed for Iraq for the first time in 2003,

Pam stepped forward and adopted the entire company. She coordinated the efforts of other volunteers to ensure that each Marine was assigned a supporter to communicate with them throughout their deployment. In addition, Pam wrote them herself, and sent care packages. Pam provided so much love, support and appreciation to these troops, that she is now called "Mom." In addition, many of these soldiers and their families include her in their personal celebrations. To Pam, this is the greatest honor of all.

Pam continued to support Engineer Company B when they were redeployed in 2005. In addition, she helps them with the annual Toys for Tots drive. She continues to encourage others to join Adoptapatoon and support our service men and women. Pam believes our military is the best in the world, and they should receive the best we can give. She takes it upon herself to give them her best.

Because of her outstanding commitment to Adoptapatoon and our troops, Pam has been awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. This award is given to volunteers in recognition of their service to their community and their country.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Pam Brunette for her years of selfless dedication to our men and women in uniform. As she continues to work to bring a sense of appreciation and concern to our military personnel and their families, let us pay special tribute to this woman who truly expresses support for our troops through her action, dedication and commitment.

KATERYNA KONDRATYSHYNA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kateryna Kondratyshyna who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kateryna Kondratyshyna is a junior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kateryna Kondratyshyna is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kateryna Kondratyshyna for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
PATRICK O'CONNOR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Chicagoan and a true friend, Patrick O'Connor, who passed away this past Tuesday.

An athlete and a sports fan, Patrick was the past President of the Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association, and the St. Pat's Football Club. An active member of our community, Patrick was a committed member of the DeSoto Council Knights of Columbus. A dedicated family man, Patrick leaves behind his beloved wife Barbara, his five children: Michael, Robert, Catherine, Daniel, and Alderman Pat O'Connor, as well as dozens of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

On behalf of my family, and those lives in my district that Patrick touched over the years, I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2009 BEAT THE ODDS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Awards presented by the Prince William County Bar Foundation. The awards recognize extraordinary youth in our community for their determination to overcome adversity and lead a full, productive life.

Beat the Odds Awards focus on young people who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system and, despite such an obstacle, have overcome abuse, neglect or juvenile delinquency with an earnest effort to realize a successful future.

It is my honor to commend the following individuals who have risen above substantial negative influences and are now being recognized as community success stories.

Recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Phoenix Award: Jessi Danner, Angela Garcia, Cynthia Hubler, Sha-Kina Jackson, and Maria Ann Sisson.

Recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Scholarship Award: Diana S. Alvarado, Howard James Artis, Courtney Blaydes, Ian Gabriel Byrd, Breanna Lee West Chrisman, Christopher England, Kendra A. Hedgespeth, Devon Kennedy, Brittani Nicole Rodriguez, Yaileen Rodriguez, and Rebecca L. Smith.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these young people for the positive example they set for their peers. Our community sends a powerful message to our youth when we encourage them to triumph over setbacks and to gain strength from hardship. The fact that more than \$100,000 in Beat the Odds scholarships have been awarded thus far is a testament to that message.

IN TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR
ALEXANDROS P. MALLIAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Alexandros P. Mallias, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States. During his tenure, Ambassador Mallias has fostered greater understanding and forged closer bonds between the leaders of Greece and America, including with many members of the House and Senate and officials in the Executive Branch. Ambassador Mallias has been a truly outstanding representative of the Hellenic Republic.

After nearly four years leading the Greek diplomatic delegation to the United States, Ambassador Alexandros Mallias is returning to serve as a senior advisor to the Greek Foreign Minister, Dora Bakoyianni, on critical issues in the sensitive Balkan region. Having first presented his credentials in Washington in 2005, Ambassador Mallias has served with distinction during a critical period in Greek American relations.

A proponent of public diplomacy, Ambassador Mallias has made hands-on interaction with the American people an integral part of his mission here, reaching beyond the bounds of Beltway politics. He traveled extensively throughout the U.S., visiting more than 30 states and delivering more than 140 public lectures at universities, think tanks and other organizations, not just on issues relating to Greece, but also on matters affecting the broader Southeastern European region.

Born on October 1, 1949, Ambassador Mallias traces his family's roots to Sternitsa in the mountainous region of Arcadia. He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from University of Athens, studied Political Science at the University of Geneva, and obtained a Post-Graduate Certificate from the "Institut des Hautes Etudes Européennes". He joined the Foreign Service of the Hellenic Republic in 1976.

Ambassador Mallias developed a close and warm relationship with the Hellenic American Community.

He and his wife Françoise, whom he affectionately calls his "pillar of support," devoted themselves tirelessly and selflessly to promoting the relationship between the United States and Greece. They opened the Greek Embassy in Washington to events and cultural occasions, frequently hosting the Hellenic-American community and the diplomatic community at large. I was honored to be included at many of these events and even, on one special occasion, to be honored by the Greek Embassy. It was a true highlight of my career, the memory of which I will always treasure.

During his four years as Ambassador, Alexandros P. Mallias worked to ensure that the critical strategic relationship between Greece and the United States remained on a positive note. There is a fresh interest on the part of the United States to work with Greece on a wide array of issues of regional as well as global importance, such as the security of vital sea lanes.

As Ambassador Mallias has always said, Greece's greatest asset in the United States remains the vibrant Hellenic-American community, so many of whose members I am proud

to serve in the United States House of Representatives. As the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Hellenic Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I can say with certainty that this outstanding ambassador will be sorely missed. Ambassador Mallias, we wish you "Ke Sta Annoterar," or great success, in all your future endeavors!

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ambassador Alexandros P. Mallias, a great statesman and diplomat whose life's work has contributed immeasurably to cross-cultural understanding and international cooperation.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania for their continued efforts in the battle against hunger.

On May 9th, letter carriers and postal customers across the country joined forces to "stamp out hunger" in the nation's largest single-day food drive for the 17th consecutive year. This also marked the 16th year that Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA took part in this extremely important event. Last year this food drive collected over 143,000 pounds of food to help struggling families in Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Monroe and Carbon counties. The local effort helped the National Association of Letter Carriers set a new record of 73.1 million pounds of food collected in 2008 in the "Stamp it out" drive.

Food banks like Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley are even more important during economic downturns like the one we are currently facing. Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania has seen the demand for assistance rise dramatically in the past year and has been able to help 64,000 people so far in 2009, up from 50,000 in 2008. Thankfully, the generosity and compassion of their neighbors in the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania bring us closer to achieving the goal of eradicating hunger in our communities. Once again, I would like to thank these organizations for their continued efforts.

ALEXANDER HILLMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander

Hillman who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Hillman is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Hillman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexander Hillman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF BILL KYSOR'S 40 YEARS OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Bill Kysor's 40 years of teaching at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

For forty years, Mr. Kysor has inspired young men and fostered their artistic capabilities and appreciation. During his tenure, Mr. Kysor has taught Middle School art and Upper School Art Elements, Painting, and Sculpture, but he is best known for his Ceramics class.

In addition to his work in the studio, Mr. Kysor has introduced scores of boys to the wonders of the outdoors during Middle School campouts and the annual Pecos Wilderness Trip. Playing his beloved drums, he co-sponsors the Blues Club. Mr. Kysor also has the distinction of being the only "Honorary Member of the Science Department," an honor awarded to him as thanks for creating the ceramic Periodic Table of the Elements that graces the Cecil and Ida Green Science Building.

In 2006, Mr. Kysor escorted his student, Jason Sanford as he received a Presidential Scholar in the Arts award for his command of the art of ceramics.

Mr. Kysor was appointed to the St. Mark's faculty on August 28, 1969, after receiving his M.A. from Southern Methodist University. He is an icon at St. Mark's, and I admire him for continuing to teach even after reaching his forty-year milestone. I wish Mr. Kysor all the best.

FRIENDS OF THE ARAVA INSTITUTE HONORING HERSHEL J. RICHMAN

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend a constituent, Hershel J. Richman, who is being honored on June 7, 2009 with the "Peace Building and Environ-

mental Stewardship Award" of the Friends of the Arava Institute.

The Friends of the Arava Institute is a Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization that supports the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in the south of Israel. This institute, which has the particularly timely philosophy that "Nature Has No Borders," brings together students from Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and beyond to study common environmental concerns and to forge mutual understanding among tomorrow's leaders in that conflicted region.

Given the special and forward-thinking mission of the Arava Institute, it is no wonder that a special and forward-thinking man such as Mr. Richman became involved with it. For decades now, Mr. Richman has been one of Pennsylvania's foremost leaders on environmental issues. A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and the Villanova University School of Law, Mr. Richman has devoted countless hours to environmental issues, in government, in private practice, in academia, and as a volunteer.

Mr. Richman and his wife Dr. Elizabeth Richman have been involved with the Arava Institute since they participated in a five-day, 300-mile bike ride through Israel sponsored by Arava in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I have no doubt that Mr. Richman deserves this and many other honors in recognition of his commitment both to the environment and to the cause of Middle East peace. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Richman on this honor.

HONORING KEVIN DUNCAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work of Kevin Duncan, a devoted member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Administration (BAC). On May 3, 2009 Mr. Duncan was recognized by the Middlesex County AFL-CIO as this year's Labor Person of the Year. This recognition is bestowed upon a committed labor leader who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow laborers.

The BAC is an organization dedicated to providing fair wages, good benefits, and safe working conditions. Mr. Duncan joined the former BAC Local #8 in 1980. As the International Union merged local unions to create three larger statewide organizations in New Jersey, Mr. Duncan continued to take on a more prominent role in the new Local #5. Mr. Duncan has been a valuable and faithful member of the BAC for over 29 years.

As a Field Representative for BAC Local #5 in 2001, Mr. Duncan held an active position in the labor movement. Three years later he undertook the position of Secretary on the Middlesex County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, where he now currently works. In the past, he has also served as vice-presidents and recording secretary to the Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council. Today, he is one of their most committed members and serves as the council's treasurer.

Along with his dedicated work at the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied

Craftworkers, Mr. Duncan has been a valuable citizen of New Jersey. Mr. Duncan was born and raised in New Jersey, and now maintains a home and joyful family life in the Garden State. He and his wife Penny have been married for 26 years and they live in Fair Haven where they have raised three beautiful daughters.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the accomplishments and hard work of Kevin Duncan. Organized labor in New Jersey would not be the same without his determination and excellent service.

MAGGIE HURSEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maggie Hursey who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Maggie Hursey is a senior at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Maggie Hursey is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Maggie Hursey for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 915) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chair. We have one of the most efficient aviation systems in the world.

However, we still need a great deal of improvement to this system.

We need to modernize our air traffic control facilities to help make travel even more efficient and reduce unnecessary delays which cost our economy millions of dollars every year.

Our last FAA reauthorization bill expired in 2007. Since that time we have been operating on temporary extensions.

I am glad to see that the legislation before us today will continue these vital programs that are needed in our aviation system.

I believe that there is more good than bad in this bill, but I do have some concerns with some of the labor provisions contained in it.

In the 1996 FAA reauthorization bill, we made a technical correction that allowed Federal Express to operate under the Rail Labor Act, as it always has.

I think to change this provision now, without knowing the consequences in this economic climate, could end up hurting our economy.

I hope that we can revisit this matter in the future before this bill is in its final form.

I would also like to state that I am pleased that this bill includes provisions from legislation that I cosponsored which would restrict the use of cell phones on flights.

I believe every passenger should be able to enjoy a flight without having to listen to someone else's conversation.

Most people do not realize that they speak louder on a cell phone than they do during a normal conversation.

Cell phone conversations are often very loud, insensitive to other passengers, and disruptive to others in nearby seats.

This bill is far from a perfect one. In fact, there are other concerns that I have about some of the other sections, including the inspections of foreign repair stations.

This could cause the European Union to retaliate against repair stations located here and potentially cost us some good paying jobs.

However, I feel overall that we should move this legislation forward, and I hope we can address these other concerns as the process goes forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 288, 289 and 291, and "no" on No. 290.

HONORING TEMPLE PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Temple Parks and Recreation for their recent honor of being named one of the top four departments in the country for a city of its size. When the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration honors one city with its National Gold Medal Award for Excellence, I am proud to say that one of our own cities, in Texas District 31, will be among the elite finalists.

Congratulations to the residents, boards, committees, city council, city administration, and department staff, whose commitment to excellence over the past several years did not go unnoticed. I wish you all the best when the winner is named in October.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REAR ADMIRAL JOEL R. WHITEHEAD, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I take this occasion to honor Rear Admiral Joel Whitehead of the United States Coast Guard for his service to the United States Congress and for his 38 years of service to our country.

Admiral Whitehead presently serves as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans where he is responsible for Coast Guard operations in 26 states, over 1,200 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline and 10,300 miles of inland waterways including the entire lengths of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River systems. As commander of the largest Coast Guard District, Admiral Whitehead leads over 9,000 active duty, reservists, civilian members and Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers. From 2003 to 2005, then Captain Whitehead served as Chief of Congressional Affairs and as Acting Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him during this time. My staff and I have often relied on Admiral Whitehead's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard to help me in my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues where his great depth of experience was invaluable.

Admiral Whitehead comes from a distinguished military family that has served this nation since before the American Revolution. His oldest known ancestor, Isaac Whitehead, served in the militia of the New Haven Colony in Connecticut as early as 1643. The Whitehead family moved westward in 1666 to become founders of the Elizabethtown, New Jersey Colony and again to Morristown, New Jersey where Onesimus Whitehead was a member of the New Jersey militia when George Washington encamped in Morristown the winter of 1779–80 and endured a winter as severe as that at Valley Forge where thousands died. His family having been awarded land for their service in the Revolutionary War, Isaac Whitehead IV moved to the Finger Lakes of New York about 1700 where the Whitehead family remained until they again traveled westward in 1826 after the opening of the Erie Canal. The Whitehead family remained in Ohio until the outbreak of World War II when Admiral Whitehead's father James entered the Army and served over 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1968 Admiral Whitehead's brother Scott also answered the call to serve his Nation, joining the United States Marine Corps while in college and recently retiring as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Admiral Whitehead has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and policy tours during his career. A native of Newport News, Virginia, he graduated from Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, Virginia. He began his military career at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1971, where he was

elected Class President and served as a Regimental Commander in the year of his graduation in 1975. Ensign Whitehead first trained new Cadets of the Class of 1979 as a Summer Ensign at the Coast Guard Academy. He then went to Governor's Island, New York, to serving two years aboard the cutter MOR-GENTHAU as Anti-Submarine Officer, Weapons Officer and Deck Watch Officer. He later served as Executive Officer of Marine Safety Office, Albany, New York. There, for the first, but not last time in his career, he led the Coast Guard's response to an environmental crisis when he was second in command during the first "Superfund" cleanup in the nation's history.

After earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the State University of New York at Albany, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead and his family accepted their first tour in Washington, D.C., where they spent some 12 years during his career. There, he helped negotiate the worldwide implementation of international MARPOL Treaty at the International Maritime Organization in London and subsequently wrote the U.S. federal regulations to enforce them in the United States. When the EXXON VALDEZ disaster occurred in 1989, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead was assigned for two weeks to assist the Admiral in charge of the cleanup. He ultimately stayed for almost a year as an adviser to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and later wrote the federal report detailing the government's response and recommendations that came from the lessons learned from this historic event. Following the EXXON VALDEZ response in Alaska, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead returned to Washington, D.C., to assist in implementing the newly passed Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and later served as a Program Reviewer for the Coast Guard's budget where he was responsible for program oversight and development for almost one-third of the Coast Guard's operating budget. He also led the Coast Guard's efforts with the new presidential administration's transition team in 1992.

Again in the field from 1993 to 1996, Commander Whitehead was assigned as Deputy Group Commander of Group Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where his group responded to more than 4,000 law enforcement boardings and 5,400 search and rescue cases resulting in over 450 lives saved. In 1996, Commander Whitehead was selected to study for a year with 17 select military officers as a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. From that elite educational experience he again found himself in Washington working for the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the Chief of Strategic Planning for the U.S. Coast Guard. There his team developed the Coast Guard's strategic vision, Coast Guard 2020 and pioneered a scenario-based planning process to develop long-range strategies to plot the Coast Guard's future.

It was not long afterward that Captain Whitehead was in command in Boston as Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Office Boston. There he managed the explosive growth of Liquefied Natural Gas transits through the port, Sail Boston 2000 and led the federal response to the largest oil spill in Boston's history: the 2000 Tank Vessel POSAVINA spill, which put over 59,000 gallons of fuel oil in the harbor. Under his leadership the Coast Guard collected an unprece-

dent 89% of the oil from that near-pristine waterway that had just undergone a \$4 billion, 10-year water quality improvement project.

In 2001, Captain Whitehead was transferred early to begin his close association with the Gulf of Mexico when he was selected as Chief of Staff of the Eighth Coast Guard District. There he managed the day-to-day operations of a 200 person staff and 9,000 Coast Guard men and women located at sub-units throughout the heartland of America and the Gulf of Mexico. He was there only a few months when the attacks of 9/11 occurred and, as acting District Commander, he personally led the federal maritime homeland security response on the inland waterways, Gulf of Mexico ports and offshore oil and gas fields. Recalling over 800 Reservists to protect the Nation's busiest ports and the energy gateway to America, he reorganized the District staff to include the first Homeland Security staff element in the Coast Guard.

Returning to Washington in 2003, Captain Whitehead assumed the reigns of the Coast Guard's relations with Capitol Hill as the Chief of Congressional Affairs. There he managed some 25 young Coast Guard men and women at DOT Headquarters, in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and organized over 100 Congressional and staff delegation visits to the field. It was there I met Captain Whitehead as he worked the many policy and budget issues including the growing Deep-water acquisition project, homeland security and port security issues.

While Chief of Congressional Affairs, he was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2004 and officially became the Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. As the heart-rending events of Hurricanes KATRINA and RITA unfolded in 2005, Admiral Whitehead ably represented the Coast Guard in Washington as a national spokesman alongside the Secretary of Homeland Security and provided numerous briefings to Members of Congress and Congressional committee staffs. In addition, he orchestrated an extraordinary and expansive media effort documenting the Coast Guard's historic response to that natural tragedy.

In 2006, Admiral Whitehead volunteered to return to New Orleans, this time to lead the Eighth Coast Guard District. Faced with the rebuilding of many Coast Guard facilities destroyed or damaged during the hurricanes, he prepared the staff for more hurricanes and tropical storms, as well as the ubiquitous flooding from the inland river system. During his tenure, the Coast Guard responded flawlessly to over 8,100 search and rescue cases. Then in 2008, during the fifth most active weather year since 1944, Admiral Whitehead led his Eighth District team through Tropical Storms EDOUARD, FAY and HANNAH, as well as Hurricanes DOLLY, GUSTAV and IKE in which 220 people were saved. In the largest oil spill in many years in New Orleans when the motor vessel TINTOMARA and the tug MEL OLIVER collided on the Mississippi river, Sector New Orleans and the Eighth District responded immediately and effectively, partially opening the port to traffic within days and fully opening it within two weeks to prevent a multi-billion dollar economic loss. The Midwest floods of Iowa and Missouri in 2008 also set records, only to be surpassed in 2009 by the flooding of the Red River of the North in which the Coast Guard rescued by helicopter and small boats over 105 people.

Admiral Whitehead has earned numerous military decorations during his years of active duty, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation medal, the 9/11 medal, as well as numerous unit commendations and team awards. He has also received a number of other honors, including being named the Distinguished Alumnus in Public Administration & Policy for 2007 at the State University of New York at Albany. He is also an Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, a recognition which the Admiral is most proud of. Over the years, Admiral Whitehead has also been able to serve his alma maters as a Director of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association and from 1999–2003 as a member and Chairman of the Alumni Executive Council at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, which represents more than 20,000 alumni in 120 nations.

This week, Admiral Whitehead will leave his post in New Orleans and retire after 38 years of honorable service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He will be missed as a military congressional affairs alumnus in the United States House of Representatives and Senate. It has been my pleasure to work with Admiral Whitehead over the years. On behalf of all who have also been able to work with him, we wish Admiral Whitehead, his wife Martha, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years, and his two wonderful daughters Christine, a medical student at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia and Katherine, a fine art photography major who will graduate this year from the Corcoran College of Art and Design here in Washington, the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL LADY WARRIORS ON WINNING THE 2009 TSSAA CLASS AAA GIRLS' STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2009 Riverdale High School Lady Warriors for winning their first TSSAA Class AAA State Softball Championship.

In a best of three series, the Lady Warriors fought back after a game-one loss and beat Beech High School's Lady Buccaneers two games in a row to secure the tournament championship. They showed tenacity and perseverance to emerge as victors, and finished the season with an overall record of 47–7.

I know the parents of these young ladies must be very proud, and much credit is due to them for their many hours of support, attending practices and games, helping with fundraisers and volunteering when needed.

I commend Riverdale High School Head Coach Jeff Breeden and Assistant Coaches Dennis Weaver and Falon Catalano, Athletic Director Barry Messer, and Principal Tom Nolan.

I congratulate each player of the 2009 AAA State Champion Lady Warrior Softball Team:

Kacie Walker, Amber Castleman, Amber Bailey, Anne Russell, Samantha Hoadwonic, Megan Chesney, Hannah Porter, Alice O'Brien, Maria Frebis, Morgan Lester, Courtney Clark, Breana Thomas, Donté Souviney, Brittany Pendergrast, Ashia Terry, Jessica Ayers, Mary Beth Canterberry, Megan Kelley, Taylor Lee, Casey Clark, Kelsey Choate, Dené Souviney, Leslie Cope, Tara Greer, Amy Russell, Megan Quinn, Rachel Albritton, and Katie Brown.

IN HONOR OF JAY LENO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jay Leno, whose comedic talent charmed audiences across the nation, as he steps down as host of the Tonight Show after seventeen seasons. As Americans tuned in every night, Jay's hilarious insights and observations whisked away our worries, if only for a brief time.

Jay began his career in night clubs across the country, perfecting his stand-up routine. As his career took off, he earned small roles in TV and film, but hit the comedic goldmine in the early eighties when he was invited to perform on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson and Late Night with David Letterman. For many years, Jay served as Johnny Carson's permanent guest host. Following Carson's retirement, Jay debuted as the new host of the Tonight Show on May 25, 1992. His work has been honored numerous times with several awards and nominations, including his Emmy win in 1995.

Beyond his professional success and achievements, Jay Leno's character has not changed. A humble man with a compassionate heart and strong sense of responsibility toward others, both Jay and his wife, Mavis Nicholson Leno, have consistently avoided the fanfare and flashing lights of celebrity, working behind the scenes to further the causes of many charities and humanitarian efforts. Mavis is the Chair of the Feminist Majority's Foundation's Campaign to Help Afghan Women and Girls, and has been an outspoken advocate and activist on behalf of women's rights in America and around the world. Jay has consistently invested his time, talents and resources on behalf of several charities. He has a record of supporting our men and women in the military, and has made countless free appearances to audiences made up of families and individuals in need, including most recently, laid-off auto workers in Detroit, Michigan.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Jay Leno as he steps down as host of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. From his commitment to social service and various causes behind the scenes, to making us laugh day after day, Jay Leno's contributions continue to lift the heart and soul of our entire nation, one joke and one kind gesture at a time.

HONORING THE HISTORY OF THE
MAD RIVER AND LAKE ERIE
RAILROAD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the work of the Champaign County Bicentennial Historical Marker Committee and the West Central Ohio Port Authority to promote the history of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad.

The Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad was chartered by the State of Ohio in 1832, making it both the first chartered railroad in Ohio and the first to be built west of the Allegheny Mountains. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place in 1835 in Sandusky, attended by General William Henry Harrison (the first of eight Presidents to hail from the Buckeye State) and Ohio Governor Joseph Vance.

By 1848, more than 130 miles of track were completed from Sandusky to Springfield at a cost of roughly \$1.75 million. Urbana resident John H. James, who served as treasurer of the railroad, was instrumental in securing lines of credit to fund rail construction and early operations of the line.

The rail line was eventually expanded to tie in with the Little Miami Railroad, allowing for continuous rail service from Lake Erie to the Ohio River through western Ohio.

After numerous mergers, the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad ultimately became part of Conrail, which has since been divided between the Norfolk Southern Railway and CSX Transportation. The West Central Ohio Port Authority acquired portions of the old Mad River track in 1994 to ensure continued freight rail service between Bellefontaine and Springfield.

On June 6, two historical markers celebrating the history of the line will be dedicated in Urbana. I am honored to join the Champaign County Bicentennial Historical Marker Committee, the West Central Ohio Port Authority, and Bellevue's Mad River and Lake Erie Museum in commemorating this event.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS R. ALLEN, JR.

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great and respected Chicagoan, Thomas R. Allen, Jr., who recently passed away at the age of 85. Thomas Allen Jr. was a man who lived life to the fullest, and the friends and family he had are a testament to the quality of his character and the type of man he was.

Thomas R. Allen, Jr. was born on the 12th of February, 1924 on the West Side of the city of Chicago. He achieved his success in life through hard work and determination. He followed his own father into the bricklayers' trade after serving as a marine during World War II.

After his service, Tom became involved with Local 21 of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. He held the

position of Midwest apprentice coordinator for the union for 35 years. He traveled the region to oversee the training of young people in his profession.

It was Tom's connection to and involvement in his community that his friends will remember. He was an active member of St. Eugene's Parish. Not only had he served as an usher for 55 years, he also served as a youth basketball coach and a member of the Big Brother program. He had a smile and kind word for everyone.

Tom's top priority was always his family and the love and support they provided him was most important in his life. In 1948 he married his high school sweetheart, Irene Feehan, and together the couple raised eight children. His family includes their daughter, Barbara Wiemhoff and her husband John, their daughter, Nancy Cullerton and her husband Tim, and their sons; Thomas III and his wife, Janis, James and his wife, Lin, Dan and his wife, Sue, Patrick and his wife, Laura, and Terrence and his wife, Jean; 26 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. After a long illness, Irene passed away in 1997.

Madam Speaker, Thomas R. Allen, Jr. ("the real Tom Allen") was an inspiration to all who knew him. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and may God bless the Allen family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his family, his friends, and his community.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 915) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Chair, I am submitting the exchange of letters between Ways and Means Committee Chairman CHARLES B. RANGEL, Representative JOHN B. LARSON and myself regarding the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RANGEL: We write to you regarding the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft and ask that you carefully consider this issue as you continue work on H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Under current law, fractional aviation is treated as commercial aviation for taxation purposes. However, the Federal Aviation Administration treats fractional aviation as non-commercial, general aviation operations for regulatory purposes. We believe that the current Federal tax law should be modified so that, going forward, it properly reflects this regulatory treatment. In addition, we recommend that an appropriate adjustment

in the aviation fuel excise taxes be placed on the fractional aviation community. It is important to note that both of these recommendations are fully supported by the fractional aviation community and are consistent with the agreement reached on this issue last year by the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees.

We had originally hoped to raise this issue during the Committee's mark-up on the aviation tax provisions of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. In the absence of this opportunity, we ask for your commitment to continue to work with us on this issue as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,
JOHN B. LARSON.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. JOHN B. LARSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LARSON: Thank you for writing me to express your interest in the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft operations. My office has been contacted on this issue as well. In the last Congress, Ms. Tubbs Jones supported changing the tax treatment of these operations from commercial to non-commercial aviation before she passed away and I appreciate your efforts to take up this issue in her place. Last year, the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees reached an agreement on this matter when the Senate considered the FAA reauthorization bill. The Senate never completed action on that bill so we were unable to consider it in conference before the end of the Congress.

This year, we had a very brief window between the Committee's hearing on aviation taxes and floor action. To accommodate that schedule, we chose to bring the bill to the floor without a mark-up of the revenue title. In those circumstances, I felt that it was not fair to Committee members for the title to include new material and thus, after consulting with our Ways and Means colleagues, we opted to move a revenue title whose substance is identical to that passed by the House in the last Congress.

I want to thank you for cooperating in that effort. Unfortunately, that process made it impossible for us to give the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft the attention and consideration it deserves. Accordingly, I would like to indicate that our failure to address the matter in the FAA bill is not the last word on the matter. If the Senate acts on the bill, we will have a conference committee. And there is a strong possibility that the Senate may include provisions related to fractional operations in its bill. At this point, I am not aware of any opposition to the proposal but believe we need to take a closer look to verify that there are no objections to or problems with changing the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft operations. I have asked my staff to take a closer look at the issue and promise to keep working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. TIBERI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

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operations. My office has been contacted on this issue as well. In the last Congress, Ms. Tubbs Jones supported changing the tax treatment of these operations from commercial to non-commercial aviation before she passed away and I appreciate your efforts to take up this issue in her place. Last year, the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees reached an agreement on this matter when the Senate considered the FAA reauthorization bill. The Senate never completed action on that bill so we were unable to consider it in conference before the end of the Congress.

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Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE-HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUM SPRINGS COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the One-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the Gum Springs Community in Alexandria, Virginia. The Gum Springs Historical Society celebrated the anniversary on May 16, 2009.

Gum Springs is an African-American community founded in 1833 by West Ford, a freed slave. West previously was owned by John Augustine Washington and frequently accompanied John's brother, General George Washington following the Revolutionary War. As a freed man, West inherited 160 acres from the Washington family adjacent to Mount Vernon which he later sold to acquire a nearby tract of 214 acres that became the basis of the Gum Springs Community.

West Ford's Gum Springs Community became a refuge for freed and runaway slaves before the Civil War, and the residents built homes, became farmers and loggers and worked in other various trades. They took a

patch of land, empty except for a solitary gum tree, and built a place of belonging for many Americans who, sadly, were marginalized and discriminated against in general society. Despite the hardships they were forced to endure, the residents persevered and prospered and the Gum Springs Community is a vibrant home to 2,500 people today.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Gum Springs Community on its One-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and thank the Gum Springs Historical Society for preserving the heritage and courage of those first residents who overcame tremendous challenges and successfully raised their families and created a lasting community.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT J.
TORNELLO

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Vincent J. Tornello upon his completion of 37 years of service to Virginia's Fifth District. As conductor of the Charlottesville High School musical ensemble since 1972, he has imparted to thousands of young students the lasting gift of a musical education, and it is an honor to acknowledge his contribution to the community.

Vincent Tornello was born and raised in Oceanside, New York. He began conducting at age 17, and went on to earn his undergraduate degree at the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, where he studied alto saxophone, flute, and piano; and his master's degree at the University of Virginia. During his time at Charlottesville High School, Mr. Tornello was the recipient of numerous accolades and honors from the community and beyond, including Sousa Foundation's Legion of Honor Award and membership in the Virginia Band Hall of Fame. Under his tutelage, Charlottesville High School bands have been named a Virginia Honor Band 27 out of 28 possible years, received superior ratings for 28 consecutive years at the state marching band festival, and performed at the 1998 Cotton Bowl Parade and the 1993 Fiesta Bowl Parade.

Throughout his career, Mr. Tornello has challenged each student to grow not only in musical skill, but also in discipline and an appreciation for the process of making music. Described as "tough, but inspiring" by his students, he has encouraged young people of varying backgrounds, abilities, and unique talents to take pride in the dedication and teamwork required to meet high standards of achievement. In helping each student reach his or her potential, he has created accomplished ensembles of young musicians dedicated to ensuring the school music program's continued success.

Although Mr. Tornello's legacy partly continues, his students have been inspired to enter the field of music and performing arts as a career, his students who have chosen a different path have noted the lasting impact of the life lessons learned under his guidance. Mr. Tornello has taught thousands of young people to strive for personal excellence and

find satisfaction and fulfillment in a job well done. On behalf of the City of Charlottesville and Virginia's Fifth District, I thank Mr. Tornello for his generosity and devotion in sharing his talent throughout the years and wish him all the best in his retirement.

**HONORING PATTY CARLIS AS THIS
YEAR'S WALLENBERG TRIBUTE
HONOREE**

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Patty Carlis, as a community leader in the arts and interfaith understanding.

At the 25th annual Wallenberg Tribute Dinner on Sunday, April 19, 2009 Patty was recognized as this year's Wallenberg Tribute Honoree. The award, given by the Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding (IJCU) at Muhlenberg College, is named for Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during the Second World War. He was taken into Soviet custody just days after Budapest was liberated and was never again accounted for by Western sources. Each year since 1989, the Wallenberg Tribute has honored one or more local individuals who are recognized for their courageous moral action on behalf of others. Patty's lifetime of work makes her truly deserving of such an honor.

Patty served as the IJCU's Schools Program Coordinator from 2000–2006 and before that was responsible for creating the Youth and Prejudice Conference in 1995. The conference, held each spring on Muhlenberg College's Campus in Allentown, has reached over 15,000 students in the Lehigh Valley. Students are able to be a part of a live theatrical performance while learning valuable lessons about interfaith and cultural tolerance. By meeting with Holocaust survivors and relatives of survivors they learn firsthand about prejudice and bigotry. The conference teaches students valuable lessons about human rights and that their own dignity and that of others depends on the choices they make each day.

Throughout her career, Patty has been able to combine her commitment to tolerance and interfaith understanding with her passion for the arts and education. Since 2000 she has been part of the theatre faculty of Muhlenberg College and each year leads her students in the production of the play *The Library: the story of a Jewish girl in Nazi Germany*. This play, which puts a human face on the history of the Holocaust, is performed at elementary schools across the Lehigh Valley each spring.

Most recently, Patty has implemented after-school drama programs in the Allentown School District. Now students who attend Roosevelt Elementary, Central Elementary, and Trexler Middle School have had the opportunity to explore and express themselves through the arts under the guidance and supervision of Muhlenberg theatre, music and dance majors. Patty is passionate about the power of the arts to spark imaginations, motivate learning and develop life skills.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Patty Carlis for all

her work to build bridges and connect communities through the arts in the Lehigh Valley, the United States, and the world. She has made our community extremely proud.

HONORING CHARLES ROSE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles Rose for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Rose passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at his home in Fresno, California after a two and a half year battle with cancer.

Charles Rose was born on August 12, 1938 in Kansas City, Missouri. His family moved to the San Joaquin Valley in 1943. As a teenager Mr. Rose worked in the fields, canneries and the Port of Stockton. He graduated from Stockton College High School in 1956. Upon graduation he was recruited to play major league baseball as a pitcher; he did not take this opportunity, but instead chose to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Rose served in the Corps from 1958 through 1966.

Prior to his military service Mr. Rose met the love of his life, Bonnie Jean. He and Bonnie were married in August, 1964. After life in the military, they settled down in Fresno and Mr. Rose began working at Foster Farms Dairy. He worked there for many years as a distributor. He was well-known for his black 1927 Ford Model T that he drove to work every day and to the Fig Garden Golf Course on the weekends. Mr. Rose was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Rose was preceded in death by his mother and father, Pearl and Harold Rose and his precious daughter, Felecia Ann. He is survived by his wife of forty-four years; his children, daughter Michelle and Wayne Ransier of Stockton, son Darren and Lisa Rose of Clovis, and daughter Linda Banks of Rocklin; his grandchildren, Brittany, Ashten, Sarah and Grace; and his sister Vermona Geigel of Stockton.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Charles Rose. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

**HONORING HEALTHSOUTH REHA-
BILITATION HOSPITALS OF NEW
JERSEY TINTON FALLS AND
TOMS RIVER**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River. Throughout the years, employees within these hospitals have worked to rehabilitate those who are fighting heart disease and stroke. On May 30, 2009, their accomplishments earned them the American Heart Association Have A Heart Ball Community Leadership Award, presented by the

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

At the annual Have A Heart Ball, the Community Leadership Award is given in recognition of outstanding and consistent dedication to the well-being of Ocean and Monmouth County Communities. The American Heart Association is in need of allies in its attempt to combat cardiovascular disease and stroke, and I can safely say that it has found two in the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River.

The services of these two hospitals have been invaluable to their local communities. Serving 4,000 inpatients and 28,000 outpatients annually, the hospitals of Tinton Falls and Toms River are committed in their care for the community. This commitment begins at the top with Linda A. Savino, Chief Executive Officer of the Tinton Falls hospital, and Patty Ostaszewski, Chief Executive Officer of the Toms River hospital. Their devotion to this honorable cause shows that they are truly deserving of this award.

The areas of Tinton Falls and Toms River are undoubtedly better off with the presence of these hospitals. HealthSouth has become part of these communities through charitable support, community education programs, and support on local and state-wide initiatives. Moreover, HealthSouth has contributed to various initiatives such as the Shoreline Start! NJ Heart Walk, Go Red For Women movement, and the Have a Heart Ball. I am sure that this commitment will continue as time goes on.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River on this achievement and thanking their employees for their service to the community. Their accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and future generations.

**RECOGNIZING GERALD O.
GUSTAFSON**

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gerald "Jerry" Gustafson, a member of my staff. Next Friday, May 29th, is Jerry's last day as a Congressional Aide in our office. Jerry has been serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois for many years.

Jerry was born on the North West Side of the City of Chicago. His working experience spans from working in private industry as a personnel manager; a union representative at Central States Joint Board; and State of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. He has been working in the Fifth Congressional District Office having joined my predecessor Rahm Emanuel's staff in 2006.

Jerry worked hard to develop close relationships with the many congressional liaisons and always knew the right person to contact for a constituent in need. Jerry always went above and beyond to provide assistance to those who were unable to access alternate means of assistance. He calmly dealt with many difficult circumstances.

Jerry has been an extraordinary asset to my office as we've managed the transition process. It has been a lot of hard work, but that

is nothing new to Jerry. Whether it was raising his two sons, Glenn and Kevin, with his wife, Barbara, working long hours, or volunteering in the community and the 32nd Ward Regular Democratic Organization, he has given his all every step of the way.

Jerry's family has always been a priority in his life and the love and support they provide is the most important thing to him.

I wish Jerry all the happiness in the future and thank him for his service to the people of Illinois' Fifth Congressional District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT STUDENTS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of 26 distinguished high school students from Florida's Fifteenth District. I was proud to award the Congressional Medal of Merit to these students during a ceremony at the Brevard County Government Complex on June 1, 2009.

These graduating seniors were nominated by their schools for the Congressional Medal of Merit. To be nominated, each student demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence throughout their high school careers.

These young men and women have demonstrated an outstanding sense of service to their peers, schools and communities. Honoring their achievements with the Congressional Medal of Merit is a privilege and I congratulate each of them along with their parents, family, teachers and community. Together, this group of students represents the best and brightest America has to offer:

Brevard County: James Brandenburg, Cocoa High School; Lance Freeberg, Viera High School; Charlene Gracia, Florida Air Academy; Michelle Grubka, Melbourne High School; George Holstein III, Community Christian School; Ashley Lipscomb, Rockledge High School; Bryan Maxwell, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy; Aaron Mayer, Merritt Island High School; Lindsay Miller, Palm Bay High School; Jared Mushell, Eau Gallie High School; Bao-Uyen Nguyen, Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School; Katherine Nickerson, West Shore Jr./Sr. High School; Erica Robes, Merritt Island Christian High School; Trever Steele, Brevard Christian School; Harry Tuazon, Bayside High School; Noel Turner, Satellite High School.

Indian River County: Margaret Cancelosi, Saint Edward's School; Kyrie Carlson, Indian River Charter High School; Tim Martinelli, Sebastian River High School; Sarah Sarnoski, Vero Beach High School.

Osceola County: Jarrett Lane, Osceola High School; Priscila Quito, Gateway High School; Antinia Taylor, New Dimensions High School; Roy Tyson, Harmony High School; Joseph Williams, St. Cloud High School.

Polk County: Nichole Periquito, Ridge Community High School.

THE PRESERVATION OF ERDENHEIM FARM

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark a significant victory in my district for open space preservation in Pennsylvania and the United States. Yesterday, an agreement was finalized to permanently protect 426 acres of the 450-acre Erdenheim Farm in Whitmarsh and Springfield Townships.

The conservation of this property will become the centerpiece of 2,000 acres of open space between Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Fort Washington State Park in Whitmarsh, Pennsylvania. It will also ensure the completion of a regional trail network between Fort Washington Park and the Morris Arboretum that has been envisioned since 1899.

Erdenheim Farm has been working agricultural land since the days of William Penn. It was purchased in 1912 by George D. Widener Jr, son of the streetcar magnate. In 1971, Widener bequeathed the property to his nephew, Fitz Eugene Dixon Jr. Mr. Dixon maintained the property as a working farm raising cattle, sheep, and thoroughbred horses until his death in 2006.

The preservation of Erdenheim Farm is a remarkable example of the excellent work that can be accomplished through public-private partnerships leveraging local and state funds.

There are many organizations that deserve recognition: the descendants of the Dixon Estate for their willingness to work with conservationists to protect the farm; Peter and Bonnie McCausland, for purchasing 259 acres of the estate and placing all but 23 of those acres under conservation easements; the Whitmarsh Foundation led by Hugh Moulton for its efforts to acquire 189 acres using \$26 million in state and local grants, tax revenue, and private donations; the Natural Lands Trust led by Molly Morrison, for its expertise in putting this deal together and enforcing the easements on the land; and state, county, and local officials who also deserve immense credit for their willingness to secure the necessary funding to make this happen.

I ask that the full House of Representatives join me in congratulating everyone that made this historic accomplishment possible. On behalf of the residents of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, I acknowledge and appreciate this important work and the opportunity it provides for future generations to enjoy this national treasure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH BLANTON

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of firefighter Ralph Blanton of Tempe and to recognize the significant contributions he made to our community.

On May 11, 2009 Ralph passed away of natural causes at the age of 79.

Ralph will be remembered for his active involvement in the development and growth of Tempe's first professional fire department. He gained valuable experience in the 1950s as a volunteer Tempe fireman, long before the formation of a paid fire department. In 1961, he, along with 10 others, established the Tempe Fire Department. Ralph earned the first ever Fireman of the Year award in 1963 for his dedication and work ethic. Finally, after 20 years of service, he was the last member of the original force to retire.

In addition to Ralph's extensive career achievements, he was also known for his role as a mentor. Many young firefighters looked up to him and learned priceless lessons, chief among them to take pride in one's work. Together, he and his wife Shirley helped establish an annual picnic for retired Tempe firefighters, which the union plans to rename the Ralph Blanton Retirees Picnic for Tempe firefighters in his honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life of Ralph Blanton and remembering the strong and positive impact he left on his community and the many people who knew and loved him.

HONORING MARY CRISALLI SANSONE AND ZACHARY SANSONE

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, congratulate and celebrate the 93rd Birthday of a prominent Brooklyn community activist and civil rights trailblazer, Mary Crisalli Sansone and the 93rd Birthday of her beloved and devoted husband of 60 years, Zachary Sansone.

Since her early days of union organizing with her father, to her involvement with the late Bayard Rustin of the civil rights movement, Mary has fought for social justice and human rights throughout her life.

Mary is the founder of three very influential New York City organizations. Mary organized the first coalition of African Americans, Latinos and Italians in New York City in the 1960s to promote racial harmony, which resulted in the formation of an organization comprised of community leaders known as CURE, Community Understanding for Racial and Ethnic Equality. CURE builds bridges between all racial, ethnic and religious groups to promote tolerance through education and cooperation.

In the 1970s, Mary founded CIAO, the Congress of Italian Americans Organization, which has developed and continues to run many social service programs to help the poor and needy. Mary is and has been a political godmother and angel to those in need.

Mary also is the founder of New Era Democrats (NED), an independent political association. NED is a good government group that promotes and assists government leaders and candidates for elected office who espouse the utmost integrity and independence, regardless of party affiliation.

Zachary Sansone was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Naples, Italy. After law school, he was inducted into the Italian Army as a First Lieutenant. Zachary served as the Mayor of the town of San Antonio in

Naples. Upon his return to New York in 1949, he married Mary Crisalli—and Zachary and Mary have been happily married for 60 years. Zachary worked as a checker and clerk at the waterfront for over 20 years. In 1970, he organized and directed the Mott Street Senior Center in Manhattan. Now retired and celebrating his own 93rd Birthday, he dedicates all of his time to CIAO, CURE and the Ralph J. Sansone Foundation.

Zachary and Mary Crisalli Sansone have dedicated their lives to helping others without ever asking anyone for anything in return. I am honored to stand here today both to recognize Mary and Zachary Sansone on their 93rd Birthdays, and to acknowledge their 60th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WHTI IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING PLAN TO ASSURE CONTINUED TRAVEL AND TRADE (IMPACTT) ACT OF 2009

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the WHTI IMPACTT Act. As with many people who live along the U.S.-Canada border, we in Western New York do not think of the bi-national Buffalo-Niagara region as two separate countries, but rather as one community with a river running through it. We have shared principles and values, and rely on an intertwining economic relationship that is vital to our prosperity.

In the Buffalo-Niagara region and all across the border, the most pressing issue facing border communities is the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). It is clear that our economy relies on the smart functioning of the Northern border and the increased documentation requirements under WHTI presents a difficult challenge for smooth travel and trade between the U.S. and Canada.

I recognize that there are security concerns at our border, and that in the post-9/11 world it is important that we know that those entering both of our countries are who they say they are, mean us no harm, and have the secure documents to prove it. That is why I agree with the intent of WHTI. We must be confident that the documents individuals present for entry into the United States are secure and authentic. However, there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach to our border concerns. We cannot simply flip a switch and move from having the world's largest open border to requiring expensive new crossing documentation.

Recognizing this, in 2007 I led the charge in Congress to delay the implementation of WHTI from January 2008 until June 2009. Language mandating this delay was successfully included in the FY08 Omnibus appropriations bill which was signed into law in December 2007.

It has become clear over the past year that this delay has proved to be absolutely necessary. Consider what has been done since the original January 2008 deadline in Western New York alone towards WHTI implementation:

The first NEXUS enrollment center in Western New York was not opened until September of 2008, and the RFID technology that is so critical to the success of Passport cards, NEXUS cards, and Enhanced Driver's Licenses, did not "go live" at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo until this past November.

At other important border crossings in New York State and Michigan, this vital technology was not set to be working and active until April; less than two months before yesterday's final WHTI implementation.

Despite this progress being made, and despite DHS and State Department issuing their WHTI certification, I, along with a number of my colleagues, remain wary of the readiness of WHTI and committed to ensuring that it is implemented in a way that will not harm the cross border trade and travel that is so critical to our border communities.

During President Obama's visit to Ottawa earlier this year, he and Prime Minister Harper stressed the importance of a healthy U.S.-Canada trade relationship to bringing both countries out of the current economic recession. I would contend that a successful WHTI implementation is an important aspect of this trade relationship, and a failed WHTI implementation could have a devastating effect not only on border communities, but on the broader national economy.

The economic downturn facing both countries has already dramatically affected cross border travel and trade. Statistics from the Public Border Operators Association show that passenger, truck and bus crossings at all New York and Michigan border crossings in January of 2009 decreased by an average of over 16% from January 2008 levels. In Western New York, traffic at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge and the Peace Bridge decreased by 19% and 13% respectively. If WHTI is not implemented properly it will only compound the current negative trend in commerce across the border.

For this reason, today I introduce the WHTI Implementation Monitoring Plan to Assure Continued Travel and Trade Act, or the WHTI IMPACTT Act. This legislation will place significant oversight on the implementation of WHTI to identify and mitigate any harmful effects of the new requirements. It will require joint reports to Congress from the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security on December 1, 2009, and June 1, 2010, that detail the effect of WHTI on freight and passenger travel across the border, enrollment levels in frequent traveler programs, the effectiveness on RFID technology, CBP staffing levels, and its effect on overall border security. It will also require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the impact of WHTI on border economies and overall domestic security.

This legislation will allow Congress to partner with DHS and State to identify any problems with WHTI implementation prior to the 2010 Olympics and the 2010 tourist season, and hopefully quickly determine what actions need to be taken to ensure that our border and our regional economies are healthy.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, on June 1 the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, celebrated his 80th birthday. I want to take this opportunity to not only wish him Happy Birthday, but express my profound admiration and thanks for his service to America.

I have been a long time supporter of the Library of Congress, which is the oldest Federal cultural institution and the greatest storehouse of knowledge and wisdom in the history of the world. I have personally brought friends and constituents up to the dome of the Jefferson Building and marvel at the art, architecture, and symbolism of the magnificent Great Hall every time I am there.

The Library of Congress would not be where it is today—leading the world in acquiring, preserving, and making accessible some 140 million items of America's and the world's heritage—without Dr. Billington's vision, energy, and firm guiding hand. It was Dr. Billington who, shortly after being nominated by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate in 1987, quickly set the Library on a path to harness new technologies as we moved into the digital age so that the Library of Congress would not recede into a position of being a passive warehouse of information but a world leader in making its collections more broadly available on the Internet for the benefit of all. Through programs such as American Memory, the National Digital Library, and the World Digital Library, just launched last month in Paris, Dr. Billington has changed the face of research and scholarship forever, making it easier for all to be enriched by the Library's treasures.

Jim Billington created the Madison Council, the Library's first ever private sector philanthropic and advisory group, which has spearheaded countless collections and initiatives, including the Kluge Center, the National Audio Visual Conservation Center, and a variety of cultural and educational outreach programs such as the Library's magnificent series of exhibitions, attracting millions of visitors to the Library and its website over the years.

I am particularly fond of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress which has collected over 60,000 personal stories of America's war veterans and is now the largest oral history project in American history. In my own district we have set up a unique partnership with WRCB-TV, First Tennessee Bank, and the Erlanger Health System to interview local veterans and have collected hundreds of interviews for the Veterans History Project so far. At my request, Dr. Billington took time from his busy schedule to help kickoff this effort in Chattanooga on Veterans Day in 2002.

As a member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Library of Congress, and currently as co-chair of the Library of Congress Congressional Caucus, I have become even better acquainted with the collections and services of the Library. At a Caucus dinner, Dr. Billington organized earlier this year in the magnificent Members Room we had a chance to get a special guided tour

of the Lincoln bicentennial exhibit and participate with Library and outside scholars in a fascinating discussion about our 16th President. Additionally, I know how much we here in Congress rely on and appreciate the Congressional Research Service, the Law Library, and other parts of the Library of Congress to support our legislative and representational duties.

I cannot say enough good things about how much I appreciate the leadership efforts of Jim Billington and his exemplary stewardship of that great institution—the Library of Congress. I am personally grateful for his friendship. We all owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service and I look forward to more years of his visionary leadership.

I wish Dr. Billington all the best on his 80th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 287, I was unfortunately detained in a cab during rush hour traffic after visiting with constituents of the 5th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, causing me to miss the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following request:

Bill Number: H.R. 915, “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009”.

Provision: Section 811 “Pollock Municipal Airport, Louisiana”.

Address of requesting entity: Town of Pollock, Louisiana.

Description of request: Requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to approve a request from the Town of Pollock, Louisiana, to close the airport as a public airport; and release the town from any term, condition, reservation, or restriction contained in a surplus property conveyance or transfer document, and from any order or finding by the Department of Transportation on the use and repayment of airport revenue applicable to the airport, that would otherwise prevent the closure of the airport and redevelopment of the facilities to non-aeronautical uses. Upon the approval of the request to close the airport, the town of Pollock shall obtain fair market value for the sale of the airport property

and shall immediately upon receipt transfer all such proceeds from the sale of the airport property to the sponsor of a public airport designated by the Administrator to be used for the development or improvement of such airport.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVAL AIR CREWMAN 1ST CLASS SAMUEL “GRANT” KERSLAKE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated patriot and a true American hero. On May 19, 2009, our state and our nation lost a brave servicemember when Naval Air Crewman 1st Class Samuel “Grant” Kerslake died during training operations off the Pacific Ocean near San Diego, California. In all, the U.S. Navy lost six members of its Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS) when its HH-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed.

Petty Officer Kerslake was a 1986 graduate of Lake Hamilton High School in Percy, Arkansas. Dedication to his country, Petty Officer Kerslake had just completed 20 years of honorable service with the U.S. Armed Forces.

While his untimely and tragic death is a shock to all of us in Arkansas, we are left with the memories and inspiration Petty Officer Kerslake shared with all who met him. We admired Petty Officer Kerslake for his commitment to his family, community and country. His legacy of service, patriotism and honor will forever define what we remember about this brave sailor.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Christine; two sons, Samuel Ryan Kerslake and Justin Fields; his mother, JoAnne Kerslake of Hot Springs; his father, Samuel Kerslake of Florida; and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Petty Officer Samuel “Grant” Kerslake and his legacy and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

OBAMA NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, thirteen million Americans are out of work, and yet eight million illegal immigrants hold jobs in the U.S. But the Obama administration’s proposed budget does little to help.

To its credit, the administration requested funds for the E-Verify system, which helps companies check to make sure they have hired legal workers.

But in this administration’s budget, the E-Verify request is the beginning and end of reducing illegal immigration.

The administration has no plans to build more of the border fence to keep illegal immigrants from coming here in the first place.

The administration has no plans to increase the size of detention facilities to hold illegal immigrants until their deportation.

And when it comes to immigration fugitives—those illegal immigrants who’ve ignored a deportation order—the administration intends to let them off the hook unless they have a criminal record in addition to being fugitives.

If the administration is serious about protecting lives and jobs, they need to enforce all immigration laws—not just a select few.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BISHOP ROGER KAFFER

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Bishop Roger Kaffer, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Joliet. The Most Reverend Bishop Kaffer passed away at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in his hometown of Joliet on Thursday, May 28, 2009. He was 81 years old.

Bishop Kaffer was ordained to the priesthood in 1954 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet, the same Cathedral in which he was baptized and confirmed and from which he eventually retired as auxiliary bishop.

He was the kind of person that inspired everyone he encountered. As principal for Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois, he made a point to visit every family with a child enrolled in the school. Bishop Kaffer believed that young people are not the future of the church but the now of the church. For this reason, he attended each annual international World Youth Day, his last being in August of 2008 in Australia. Though his health was not good, it did not overshadow his commitment to the youth.

Bishop Kaffer led a spiritually rich life with a deep dedication to prayer and public service. Even in retirement, he continued to mentor priests and bishops and offer spiritual direction through retreats.

Not only has the Joliet community lost a devoted son in the passing of Bishop Kaffer, so has the world faith community. It is with reverent honor that I remember the life and legacy of Bishop Roger Kaffer of the Diocese of Joliet.